

FILED

JUL 13 2016

N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

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|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF | : | Administrative Action |
| | : | |
| | : | |
| | : | |
| TINA DOWLING, RN | : | |
| License # 26NO07135800 | : | FINAL ORDER |
| | : | OF DISCIPLINE |
| | : | |
| TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE | : | |
| STATE OF NEW JERSEY | : | |

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Tina Dowling ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about April 23, 2015, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2015," referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015. Respondent answered "Yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application. Respondent also answered "Yes" to the question which asked whether Respondent completed the required one hour course on Organ and Tissue Donation.

3. The Board sent a letter of inquiry requesting, in part, documentation of completed continuing education to Respondent's address of record in Keyport, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about October 13, 2015.

4. In a response dated December 3, 2015, from Benjamin N. Cittadino, Esq. (counsel for the Respondent), respondent provided 23 continuing education hours which were completed during the June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013 renewal period, prior to the June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015 renewal period. Respondent failed to provide documentation for successful completion of the required 30 continuing education hours for the June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015 renewal period.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. By February 7, 2014, every Registered Professional Nurse was required to complete a one hour course on organ and tissue donation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(j). Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

Respondent failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that Respondent completed the continuing education credits required for renewal during the biennial period of June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying the continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions. Based on the foregoing Findings and Conclusions, a Provisional Order of

Discipline suspending respondent's license to practice nursing in the state of New Jersey was entered on December 17, 2015 and a copy served on respondent. The provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 pm on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent responded to the Order and provided 8 continuing education hours and a check for \$250.00. Respondent's submissions were reviewed by the Board, and the Board determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that the material discrepancies had been raised. The board was not persuaded that the submitted material merited further consideration, as respondent did not dispute the Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law.

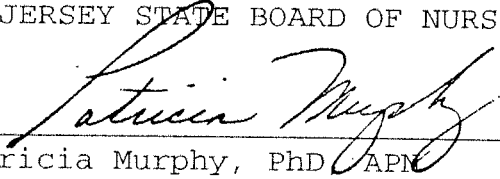
ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 13th day of July, 2016,
ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for misrepresenting the continuing education information on the license renewal application.

2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for failing to timely complete required continuing education.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: _____


Patricia Murphy, PhD APRN
Board President